BY TRICKS THAT ARE VAIN.

How Some Iowa Insurance Campanies Work A Little Game.

MISUSING THEIR CERTIFICATES

Legislative Action Needed-A Little Tilt With the Standard Oil Company-lowa Coal Business-Northwestern League.

Spide Insurance Companies. DES MOINES, Ia., July 10.-|Special to the BEE |- What shall be done to protect the people against the snide insurance companies, is the very practical question which State Auditor Lyons, who has charge of the insurance department of this state, is asking. In his investigations in preparing his annual report, he has had his attention forcibly drawn to the fact that some lowh so called insurance men had been doing an underground business that has brought the state into very ill repute. The defunct Monarch Insurance company was run by men of this class, and the auditor comments very severely on the reckless way In which its affairs have been managed. The heretofore, seems to have been that these underground felsecure certificates would from the state officials authorizing them to do business in Iowa. Then they would go Into other states, and producing their crepentials as certificates of character, proceed to fleece the people there without mercy. To pover such cases, the auditor recommends that the legislature pass a law refusing any lowa insurance company a certificate of solvency, if it does business in other states, and does not conform to the insurance laws and regulations of that state. The suggestion is timely and will probably be favorably received by the next legislature.

ceived by the next legislature.

THE IOWA OIL TEST.

The state board of health includes in the scope of its observation, the oversight of the oils burned in Iowa. Just now the board is having a little tilt with the Standard Oil company over the quality of the oil burned on Iowa railroads. The board insists on an oil that will stand a 300 degree test when measured by the test cup in use in this state. The chemist for the company declares that a sample of oil which he furnishes is up to test, but his cup is not the same as that of the road. In fact the Iowa test is a little higher than that of almost any other state, and the road. In fact the lowa test is a little higher than that of almost any other state, and the company begins to think the board is over particular. But it is better to err on the right side, and the right side in this case happens to be the safe side. So the lowa test will stand, and the public need not fear any oil explosions on lowa trains.

explosions on Iowa trains.

THE COAL BUSINESS.

Although in comparatively dull times for the coal miners, the reports of mine inspectors show that there is a good deal of work now going on in Iowa mines. Inspector Stout, whose district (No. 3) is in northeastern Iowa, says that there are in it 131 mines, employing 3.851 miners, with an annual output of 900,741 tons. Commissioner Smith reports that in his district (No. 2) there are 96 mines, employing 4.586 men, with an output of 1,688,200 tons. In Dubuque, Clayton and Allamakee counties there are about 100 openings—lead and zinc mines generally—worked apon the co-operative plan with no outside assistance. NAMES OF RAILROAD STATIONS.

NAMES OF RATLROAD STATIONS.

The railroad commissioners have many interesting questions to settle, and one of the last we learn is that relating to names of stations. In Sioux county there is a town by the name of Pattersonville, and the railroad running through the place took the liberty of changing the name in their business dealings to Winson. To add to the implications the postoffice authorities changed the name to Hull. The people have finally agreed upon that name but the railroad still sticks to the old one, and so the honorable commissioners are petitioned to compel the railinissioners are petitioned to compel the railroad to use the name of Hull. Speaking
of the names of stations, that last
one ought to commend itself to railroad
noen for its brevity and its distinctiveness. The average brakeman will
ruin the most romantic and teautiful
name that ever was invented. A few miles
from this city there is a station on the Diagonal called Valeria, a very smooth, pretty
name. But the unromantic brakeman now
startles passengers by shouting as the place startles passengers by shouting as the place comes in sight, "Valley-rier." On another railroad going out of this city was a station which the superintendent wanted to name, in honor of a friend, "Grosvenor." But the matives and the irresponsible brakemen had no ear for the beautiful, aristocratic name, and Immediately dubbed it Gross-veener, and the superintendent, in complete disgust was compelled to change it to Smithfield, or Jonesytile, or anything that the common

was compelled to change it to Smithfield, or Jonesville, or anything that the common folks could understand.

THE NOTHWESTERN LEAGUE.

The Northwestern league is flourishing these days despite the large distance which some of the clubs have to travel. Of the bight cities in the league, nearly all give the hatlonal game such god support that the clubs are doing nicely financially, and some of them are going to make money for the stock-holders. The traveling expenses, however, went up pretty high since under the interstate commerce law no favors are given to glubs however many thousand miles they travel. Manager Harrington, of the La Crosse team, who has been in town the past week, said that the railroads were finding the league business very prolitable to them, and he mentioned the fact that he had paid to one road alone—the Chicago and Northwestern—bver \$1,900 for passage fare this season already. His team jumped from here clear to Milwaukee, and the railroad fare of the boys in getting there would spoil the greater part of \$300.

The chinch bugs are settling down in some parts of the state like one of the Egyptian plagues. Reports from West Side in Crawlard county, state that one day last week, during about two hours of the afternoon, the air was filled with chinch bugs as thick as snowflakes in a hard snowstorm. Wherever they have appeared they have done considerable damage.

An Indian Murdered.

ATAKA, I. T., July 10 .- Kanmotuloly, an old full-blood Choctaw Indian, was murdered on his ranch by unknown parties near here. He was one of the richest Indians in the territory, being possessed of large herds of cattle, besides some money. It was for his money he was murdered, but the assassins, two white men and an Indian, failed to find it. In the past three years there have been eight of the richest full-blood Indians murdered for their money in the Choctaw nation. The assassins in every case but one have been white men and have never been raught. This record of murder tends to dispourage the Indians in trying to arcumulate wealth. dered on his ranch by unknown parties near

Mortality Among the Chinese. NEW YORK, July 10.-The Chinese physicians of Mott street are becoming alarmed about the increased mortality among their race. The death of a Chinaman a few days ago is the ninth that has occurred within a fortnight. Nearly all of them have been caused by quick consumption. The physicians blame the light Chinese diet as being insufficient in this climate, and have issued a bulletin advising a change to wholesome American food, in the hope that this may lessen the death rate.

Bulgaria's Regents Resign.

TIRNOVA, July 10.-The regents have tendered their resignations to the Sabranje on the ground that their task was completed by the election of Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg to the Bulgarian throne. The Sa-branje refused to accept the resignations, desiring to await the return of the delegates who started to-day to visit Prince Ferdinand at Vienna.

Weather Indications.

For Nebraska-Winds shifing to northerly, lower followed by stationary temperature in

western portion, local rains.

For Iowa—Local rains, winds shifting to westerly, lower temperature.

For Dakota—Local rains, winds shifting to northerly, stationary temperature in northern portion, lower temperature in southern portion.

Steamer Ashore.
Boston, July 10.—A Journal special from Halifax, N. S., says the steamer Merrimack from Halifax for Boston is ashore on Little Poop island some miles off Liverpool, N. S. The passengers, 160 in number, were all got ashore safely and will be taken to the main-land in sailing crafts.

BURNED IN THE MORNING. Almost Total Destruction of Pomy &

Segelke's Factory. Yesterday morning at 3:20 o'clock the magnificent mineral water manufactory of Pomy & Segeike, on South Tenth street, was discovered to be on fire. On the corner of Mason and Tenth streets is a fire alarm box. To this, a man named Munday, living on the latter thoroughfare, almost opposite the burning building, ran to sound the alarm. He had been aroused by the flames and made his run in the habilments in which he had been taking his nocturnal slumbers. The box in question adjoins a grocery kept by F. W. Smith. The latter, it is claimed, took Munday for a burglar when he called for the key of the alarm box, and later told him he did not have the key. By this time the factory was enveloped in flames, a number of minutes having been lost in the fruitless effort to send in the alarm from a point scarcely a block distant from the scene of the conflagration. Finally somebody ran to the depot, telephone. phoned No. 3 engine house, and from there an alarm was sounded for box seventeen, that at the corner above mentioned. The fire department responded as quickly as could have been expected under the circumstances, and when the companies reached the scene of the fire the building was already beyond saving. The flames burned with intensity, yet, notwithstanding their fierceness, by heroic efforts of Pomy & Segelke's hands and sympathetic friends lifteen horses, which were stabled in the basement, were saved. The roof, the floors, the machinery were all destroyed, together with nearly everything in the way of stock which was in the building. The office alone was preserved in a semi-decent condi-tion compared with the rest of the fac-

tory. In this was the safe of the firm, which contained all the books, which were uninjured. The front of the build-ing is a wreck and will have to be torn down. The arches over all the windows are threatening to fall, and in several parts the face is badly cracked. The other walls are in some places cracked, yet it is not known whether they will stand rebuilding. When the hose cart arrived on the scene, the pressure of the water was lamentably weak, many of the spectators claiming it was insufficient to force the water up to the second story. Members of the fire department say that it was not as strong as it should have been. This is perhaps accounted for by the altitude of the location, as also by the fact that the grading being carried on immediately south of the factory required the taking up of a pipe which would have given a more satisfactory flow. Pomy & Segelke's loss will not be far from \$25,000, when everything is taken into consideration. They are insured as follows: Hanover, \$12,000; Nebraska and Iowa, \$2,000; Lincoln, \$1,500; Sun of San Francisco, \$1,500;

German, Peoria, \$2,200; Mercantile and Marine, \$2,200, and Farragut, New York, \$1,500. The cause of the fire is unknown. There was no fire in the furnace, and the night before the place had been flooded with water in the weekly cleansing which was given to the floors. Pomy & Segelke's factory was the tinest and most complete one of the kind in the western country. It contained all the latest improvements and was the direct result of the diligent labor by two earnest Omahans, who have grown into wealth with the city. It was opened but a little more than a year ago, and the firm have the sympathy of hundreds of friends in this city and neighborhood. The firm, however, will not be discouraged by their loss. They will rebuild as soon as possible, and in the meantime will serve their customers as usual, having already made arrangements to that end.

SLASHED WITH A KNIFE. A Row in Which a Waiter is Seriously Cut.

About 5:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon two waiters employed at Smith's famous restaurant, on Eleventh street near Harney, became involved in an altercation in the kitchen of the establishment. D. W. Warner, familiarly known as "Dynamite," a young man about twenty-two years of age, was seriously cut across the face by another waiter named Har-vey Love. William Ross, a third employe, was cut across the hand by Love, in his effort to stop the row. Love had been drinking and the assault on Ross was made when the latter had a tray full of dishes in his hands. The weapon used was a butcher knife with a two inch blade, and the klash across Ross' face extended from the slash across Ross face extended from the forehead down between the eyes, across the nose and also the cheek. Love ran out the back way and escaped through the alley. Ross was taken home in a cab and his wounds dressed. At 3 o'clock this afternoon Love had not been ar-

FIRED OFF HIS GUN.

A Beligerent Individual Shoots at an Oyster Cook.

There was a wave of excitement on the southwest corner of Twelfth and Douglas streets at midnight last night occasioned by the reckless firing by J. P. Pal-mer of his revolver at the person of Charles Townsend. The men quarrelled over a watch, which it seems Palmer had lost, and which he intimated Townsend knew something about. Palmer fired two shots at Townsend, and was in the act of firing the third when Officer Bloom, who was near by rushed up and arrested the shooter. Palmer is employed in Hospe's art store on Douglas Townsend is oyster cook in Higgins' restaurant. He disappeared in the restaurant on the arrival of the officer, and of course could not be found when

A Circus Row.

The employes of Howe's circus, the tents of which are pitched on North Eighteenth street, engaged in a row among themselves yesterday afternoon.
The police were sent for, but by the time
the patrol wagon reached the scene the
row was at an end, and of course no one
about the tent knew anything about it.

Used Brass Knucks. John Mills and Mike Cunningham quarreled in front of the Union Pacific house on South Tenth street yesterday afternoon about 3 o'clock. The belligerants pummelled each other with brass knucks and succeeded in getting them-

selves locked up. False Pretenses.

H. C. Foster was arrested yesterday for obtaining money under false pretenses. Foster, it seems, had been working on improvements and sold his time to two men named Charles Larson and Alex

Last night John Nelson, a new member of hook and ladder company No. 1, was struck on the shoulder by a piece of fall-ing glass at the Pomy & Segelke fire and so badly cut that he had to be taken home. It was the first fire he had attended.

The United States Commissioner. A special car attached to the Portland train left the Union Pacific depot last night and will proceed to Ogden, Utah, for the purpose of conveying General J. Johnston, United States commissioner, to Omaha en route for Washington.

A Would-Be Train Robber. Geo. Tranwith was arrested yesterday as a suspicious character, and calaboosed

one of the gang of would be train robbers arrested in the Tivoli garden some time ago. The police are informed that Lew Foley, Meagher, Carrigan, Wilson and the rest of the gang are in Council

A DOUBLE LIFE.

Strange Career of Tom Ballard, the Counterfelter. Cincinnati Enquirer: "I see President Cleveland has pardoned Tom Ballard from the Albany prison," said Detective Billy Hazen yesterday, "Yes," remarked an Enquirer reporter, to whom this remark was made, "How didn't come shouts"

did it come about?"
"Oh, there is a universal opinion among those acquainted with the case among those acquainted with the case that Tom has got enough, and that he has reformed. He is broken down and his mind is fast giving way. President Cleveland simply endorsed the application for his release. Tom was by all odds the most brilliant counterfeiter that ever bothered the detectives. Although much broken down, he is still a young man, though old in crime. He was born man, though old in crime. He was born in 1840, and before he was twenty went to work with his father at Washington, D. C., as a carriage painter. Through the influence of his employer, a man named Hinman, he became acquainted with Josh Miner, a rich contractor, who, while apparently carrying on a legiti-mate business, was really the banker and friend of every counterfeiter of note in the country. Miner sent him to New York city to learn to become an engraver, and in course of time he became a very expert workman. Then under Miner patronage he began to engrave plates for counterfeit bills. Ballard's first work was a plate for \$1

greenback; then followed \$2 on the Shoe and Leather bank in New York; then came plates for \$10 bills of three national banks in Poughkeepsie; \$20 Shoe and Leather bills, and plates for printing \$100 and \$500 treasury notes. Ballard married an estimable woman.
"The president refers to her in his in-

dorsement, I believe," remarked the reporter.
"Yes, he makes a very graceful reference to her," said the detective. "For years she supposed that Tom was a reputable carriage painter, working in Hinman's shop. Ballard never drank or smoked, he was perfectly regular in his hour and fond of his wife. Her suspic-ions were never aroused till the detectives got after him. Every morning he left his house, 225 West Fifty-third street, New York, ostensibly for Hinman's shop, but instead he went to 250 Irvington street, where the counterfeit money was made. Here he shut himself up in his room and staid there till toward night. On Irvington street, in New York, he was understood to be a night watchman in the custom house, who, of course, slept all day

and went to work as evening approached. He led this double life for years without being suspected by his friends, but was finally run down by de-tectives and arrested. He escaped from the Ludlow street jail at New York, was a fugitive from justice for three years, and was again arrested in August, 1874, and a large stock of plates, presses, ink, counterfeiters' tools and counterfeit money captured with him. He escaped again, and in October of the same year was again taken in the western part of New York, In the three months or less he had engraved a full set of plates, made a fresh stock of paper, collected a full outfit of counterfeiting materials and got a good deal of money printed. He had also nearly completed the plate for the face of a Canadian \$5 bill, which was pronounced at the treasury one of the finest pieces of engraving ever done. Tom was tried in January, 1875, and sentenced

"He was an expert, then?" "Yes, he was supposed to be one of the most expert counterfeiters in the country. He has now been in prison equivalent to more than fifteen years, allowing the de-duction he had secured for good behavior. He has grown to be an old man, broken down physically and mentally. His conduct has been such as to cause much interest to be felt in his case by good citizens and officials concerned in his conviction. His wife, who has clung to him with a true woman's devotion all these years, and who has almost worn herself out in her efforts to support and educate her daughter, just now reaching womanhood, pleaded for her erring and penitent husband's release, and this has had a great deal to do with the president signing the application."
"What was his great forte?" asked the

to thirty years' imprisonment, of which

he has now served about eleven and a

reporter.
"Tom Ballard was the only person wh ever successfully imitated the fiber paper on which government notes are printed, but he made it perfectly. He could also imitate the scroll work, which is done in imitate the scroll work, which is done in the government engraving bureau by the famous geometric lathe, so perfectly that it could not be detected by experts and by a microscope. His \$500 bill was his most famous work. It was so perfect that two of them were redeemed by the treasury officials themselves, and one was taken at the sub-treasury in Chicago. The only flaw in it was in a button on the coat of John Ouincy Adams at the left hand end John Quincy Adams, at the left hand end of the bill. This button was not exactly round, but was so nearly so that no one would notice it if he were not looking for it. It is said that only twenty of these bills were ever put in circulation, coun-terfeiters being afraid of them because their denomination was so large. It is also said that Tom became afraid of the plates, and finally dropped them over-board from a ferry boat while crossing the Hudson river.

A BRIDAL COUPLE'S TBAVELS.

They Return from a Honeymoon Trip to Prosecute a Pullman Porter for Denver Republican, July 9: Among the passengers who arrived in Denver on a Kansas Pacific train on the morning of June 15 were Mr. and Mrs. Morris Sicher, af Stater, Missouri. They were a bridal couple who only a few days previous had stood before the altar. Immediately after the ceremony the happy couple left on their honeymoon trip for California. Their trip was a happy one until the evening before they reached Denver, when it was marred by a distressing occurrence. previous to re-tiring the newly-made husband removed from the pocket of his panta-loons two pocket-books. One contained drafts for a large amount and the other \$60 in greenbacks were tightly rolled together. It was the purpose of the husband to deposit his valuables beneath his bride's pillow, where no vandal vandal hand would dare intrude. Mrs. Sicher also unfastoned a handsome diamond brooch—a bridal gift—and asked her hus-band to place it with his money beneath her pillow. He did so, and soon the rumbling of the Pullman wheels, as the

train sped over the plains, woold the happy Missourians to slumber.

While Mr. and Mrs. Sicher were discussing the disposition of their valuables before retiring they were unconscious of being overheard by other ears. Yet it was so. The listener was C. R. Sawyer, the colored porter with shining brass buttons. He had heard the pocketbook conversation and the spirit af temutation possessed him. He evidently thought how charming a certain little yellow girl in Denver would look adorned with a \$100 diamond breastpin. He resolved to snatch the "sniner," and it is alleged that he did. His little sleight-of-hand trick was so lightly played that the slumbering couple were not awakened.

In the early morning the theft was discoveled, and immediately there was a scene in the car. The porter was collared, and was requested to rustle for the lost valuables. He made a valuant attempt, but it resulted in nothing. Three

hours later the bridal couple arrived in Denver and at once proceeded to the office of Superintendent Randall of the Pullman Palace Car company. They explained their loss and asked for assistance. Superintendent Randall readily gave it, and at once laid the case before Manager Farley of Thiel's Detective Agency. Later he questioned Sawyer, the colored porter, who stoutly denied any knowledge of the money or the diamond brooch. Unbeknown to him a watch was put upon his tracks. Mr. and Mrs. Sicher waited in Denver two days and then proceeded to Californial Soon afterward Sawyer was found on the street and Sawyer was found on the street and taken to the Pullman office and searched.

taken to the Pullman office and searched. On him was found the \$60, but no trace of the diamond pin. He was at once taken to the county jail.

Yesterday Mr. and Mrs. Sicher returned from the Pacific coast. Sawyer was arraigned before Justice Cherry and they appeared against him. After hearing the evidence Judge Cherry held the accused in the sum of \$500, and he was again placed in jail.

again placed in jail.

Mr. and Mrs. Sicher will leave this morning for their home at Slater, Mo. They will return to Denver in the fall and will prosecute the porter.

Detective Farley feels confident that by that time the diamond pin will have been unearthed.

HE MET KILLEN.

Ambitious Englishman Who Wanted a Little Sparring. The following good story, says the St. Paul Globe, is told of an Englishman who is summering in the neighborhood of Killen's training headquarters at Independence Lake, Minn. The day that Killen, Moulton and Seelye arrived the Englishman sauntered up to the party and inquired for Mr. Killen. Moulton referred him to Pat himself, saying: "That is Mr. Killen's trainer." Pat caught on to the joke at once and told who is summering in the neighborhood caught on to the joke at once and told him that Killen had not got there yet, but they expected him the next day. The Englishman, who is quite a sport and a jovial good fellow, was soon friends with everybody, and was invited to make him-self at home, which he did. Getting Moulton to one side he inquired: "Hi say, Mr. Moulton, can Mr. Jack box a bit?" Moulton replied that he could do bit?" Moulton replied that he could do a little at it, but not much; and, giving Seelye the wink, proposed that he and Jack (the name they had given Killen) should spar a round or two. "Oh, do, Mr. Seelye; Hi would be delighted you know, 'pon my honor I should." Jack was agreeable, and he and Seelye were soon at it with big eight-ounce gloves. Killen played the greehhorn to perfection. Seelye winding up by knocking him tion, Seelye winding up by knocking him down. The Englishman was greatly pleased, and proposed to Mouiton to get Jack to put them on with him. "E's a lively fellow, 'e is, but Hi thiak Hi can show 'im a thing or two.' Moulton looked him over and he certainly appeared robust enough, being certainly appeared robust enough, being a man of about one hundred and eighty-five pounds weight. "What do you say, Jack?" inquired Moulton: "will you try a round with Mr. —?" "I don't know," said Killen; "he might be too much for me." "Oh, come hon; 'pon my word Hi won't hurt you, you know. Try one round anyway." After some persuasion Killen agreed, and in less time than it takes to tell it they were at it. The Englishman rushed at him like a bulldog.

lishman rushed at him like a buildog, fighting him with both hands. Jack took matters very easy. At last the opening came, his left described a semi-circle, catching the Englishman on the chin and knocking him down and worse— out. It took nearly half an hour for him to recover, when Jack proposed anothe round. "No you don't. Hive 'ad plenty," ejaculated the Englishman, who was as pale as a ghost. Jack then proposed that he put them on with one of the ladies who was present, but he declined with thanks. Later on he inquired: "I say, Jack, will you kindly tell me you last man?" Jack in reply presented his card: "Pat Killen, St. James hotel, Minneapolis." The Englishman was thunderstruck, but appreciates the joke which he

A CENTENARIAN PARROT. A Talkative Bird With an Interest-

that Killen can whip Sullivan.

ing History. Chicago News: "My parrot is 100 years old," said Erastus Judd, living at 608 Elm street. "I have had him for thirty years, and my father had him about forty years. 'Old Putnam,' as we call him, used to belong to my grandfather, Seth Judd, who lived at Shelburne Falls, Mass. The old gentleman got him from a sailor in Boston. I have family letters dated in 1790, in which 'Old Putnam' is referred to as a 'pretty 'Old Putnam' is referred to as a 'pretty bird, which hath been taught to say after one much of our New England primer and certain of Dr. Watt's hymns for the young.' I do not see that the parrot is not as young as ever. He is very docile, and he talks as clearly as a child of 6. His plumage is still bright, but his sight has failed him somewhat. The way to tell the age of a parrot is to count the rings on his claws. A new ring, or wrinkle, comes every tenth year. 'Old Putnam' hus nine of these right and a starter for the tenth.'

South Carolina Again Quakes. CHARLESTON, S. C., July 10 .- Slight earthquake tremors were felt at different points in lower South Carolina this afternoon

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